

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00867 081344Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 COME-00

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SU, US

SUBJECT: INTERPOLATION IN PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ON US-SUDANESE
RELATIONS

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON APRIL 7, MINSTATE FONAFFAIRS JAMAL
MOHAMMED AHMED REPLIED TO QUESTIONS CONCERNING US-SUDANESE
RELATIONS NOW AND BEFORE 1967 BREAK, LEVELS OF
US AID, US CONTRIBUTION TO RAHAD, ALLEGED CIA ACTIVITIES
WORLD WIDE, AND THREATS OF FORCE AGAINST OIL PRODUCERS.
AHMED DID NOT RISE TO SEEMINGLY PROVOCATIVE QUESTIONS,
WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN PLANTED BY GOS, INDICATING DESIRE
DEPICT US-SUDANESE RELATIONS AS SATISFACTORY. WE ASSUME
EXCHANGES ORCHESTRATED LARGELY FOR SUDANESE INTERNAL CONSUMP-
TION, THOUGH "OLIVE BRANCH" EXERCISE VIS-A-VIS USG CANNOT
BE EXCLUDED. END SUMMARY.

1. WHEN ASKED WHETHER SUDANESE REPRESENTATION IN US HAD
RETURNED TO THE LEVEL EXISTING BEFORE "THE RECENT BREAK-
DOWN IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS," AHMED COMPARED THE
SIZE OF THE SUDANESE DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENT BEFORE
THE 1967 BREAK IN RELATIONS AND NOW, ILLUSTRATING THAT
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PAGE 02 KHARTO 00867 081344Z

THE SIZE WAS APPROXIMATELY THE SAME AND NOTING THAT THERE

IS NOW A CULTURAL COUNSELOR WHEREAS THERE WAS ONLY A CULTURAL ATTACHE PRIOR TO THE BREAK.

2. AHMED WAS ASKED WHETHER GOS ENVISAGES THE RETURN OF THE LARGE AID MISSION AND A RENEWAL OF SUBSTANTIAL AID. HE REPLIED THAT THE US HAS REDUCED ITS AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS A RESULT OF CHANGES IN THE US INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION AND IN THE WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC SITUATION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CURRENT US AID DOES NOT EQUAL AID RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE BREAK IN RELATIONS, ASSERTING THAT A DIALOGUE IS PROCEEDING AND THAT "THE RESPONSE FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE IS REASSURING."

3. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE US CONTRIBUTION TO RAHAD, AHMED SPECULATED THAT QUESTIONER MAY THINK THAT THE AMOUNT CONTRIBUTED IS NOW WORTH LESS DUE TO INCREASES IN COST OF EQUIPMENT (TO BE FINANCED BY US LOAN). HE SAID THAT, IN ANY CASE, SUDAN RELIES PRINCIPALLY ON ARAB BROTHERS WITH RESPECT TO RAHAD BUT THAT "US MIGHT REVIEW ITS COOPERATION IN THE RAHAD SCHEME."

4. REGARDING ALLEGATIONS OF CIA INTERFERENCE IN OTHER NATIONS' INTERNAL AFFAIRS, ASSASSINATIONS, ETC. AHMED SAID HE HAD READ WHAT HAD BEEN PUBLISHED BUT THAT THERE WAS NO POINT IN SUDAN TAKING A POSITION UNLESS SUDANESE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONAL DIGNITY INVOLVED.

5. QUESTIONED ABOUT SEC. KISSINGER'S ALLEGED THREATS OF FORCE AGAINST OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES, AHMED REMARKED THAT SUCH THREATS WERE NOT NEW BUT TOOK ON ADDED IMPORTANCE WHEN MADE BY THE US SEC. STATE. HE SAID THAT SUCH THREATS WERE IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT AND THAT THE US PRESS HAD DRAWN THE SAME CONCLUSION.

6. COMMENT: NEITHER QUESTIONS NOR ANSWERS MADE ANY EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO JUNE 1974 RELEASE OF KHARTOUM TERRORISTS OR POLICY SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPTED BY US. GIVEN TOTALLY DEPENDENT ROLE OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY IN SUDANESE POLITICS, IT NOT UNLIKELY THAT QUESTIONS WERE PLANTED BY GOS IN ORDER ALLOW AHMED EXPRESS GOS DESIRE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KHARTO 00867 081344Z

GOOD RELATIONS WITH USG. REGIME MAY WELL HAVE WISHED ASSURE LOCAL OPINION THAT IT IS NOT BEING NEGLECTED BY WASHINGTON. MODERATE TONE OF AHMED'S RESPONSES MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN CALCULATED PROMPT SOME FORTHCOMING USG RESPONSE RE FURTHER COLLABORATION.
BREWER

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